

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1679

INFO CUSMTMSA DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

DEPT OF ARMY WASHINGTON DC

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : MTIS, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE REQUEST FOR RANGER TRAINING

REF : STATE 221955, MANAMA 800

1. ON OCT 21 USMTMSA ECL OFFICER ADMINISTERED TEST TO FOUR BAHRAINI OFFICERS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND RANGER TRAINING. RESULTS WERE NOT PROMISING (RANGE 17-32). THIS WAS FIRST TIME OFFICERS HAD TAKEN TEST OF THIS TYPE. BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF THEN HAD TRAINING OFFICER CONTRACT WITH LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE (30 HRS/WEEK FOR FOUR WEEKS) ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE USING EXPERIENCED AMERICAN INSTRUCTOR. OFFICERS WERE RE-TESTED ON NOV. 26 AGAIN ACHEIVING LOW SCORES (19-32). OFFICERS ARE, HOWEVER, ABLE TO CARRY ON NON-TECHNICAL CONVERSATION IN ENGLISH, AND IN OPINION OF EMBOFF AND LATEST ECL TESTER SHOULD HAVE SCORED MUCH HIGHER ON TEST. OFFICERS HAVE STUDIED ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR SEVEN YEARS AND HAVE PASSED DIFFICULT SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAM, AND WE CAN ONLY ASSUME LOW SCORES DUE TO CULTURAL AND TESTING PROBLEMS. SCORES ON TAPED PORTION WERE HIGHER.

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2. CHIEF OF STAFF STILL VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING THESE OFFICERS ATTEND RANGER TRAINING IN THE U.S. BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM COMPLETE COURSE BY AUG.-SEP. 1975. HE FEELS THAT GIVEN THEIR BACKGROUND IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, OFFICERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO RAISE PROFICIENCY TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL SOONER THAN TEST SCORE WOULD INDICATE. HE NOTES OFFICERS ARE AVAILABLE TO COMMENCE TRAINING AT DLI SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY.

3. AS DEPT. AWARE, THIS IS OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH DLI PROGRAM AND WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE HOW MUCH TRAINING NEEDED. WE DO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THESE OFFICERS WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ECL SCORE OF 80 IN LESS THAN THE 35-40 WEEKS THAT DLI NORMALLY ESTIMATES IS NECESSARY FOR STUDENTS TESTING AT THESE LEVELS. AT THE SAME TIME, THIS IS BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE'S FIRST ATTEMPT TO MAKE USE OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINING (OTHER THAN DEFENSE MINISTER/CROWN PRINCE'S ATTENDANCE LEAVENWORTH). WE ANXIOUS THAT THIS EXPERIENCE START OUT ON RIGHT FOOT.

4. TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT WE SHOULD BE CERTAIN BEFORE THEY ENTER DLI THAT THERE WILL BE PLACE IN RANGER SCHOOL REGARDLESS OF PACE THEIR LANGUAGE PROGRESS. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT FOUR OFFICERS BE SCHEDULED INTO DLI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH PRESENTLY SCHEDULED MAY ENTRY RANGER TRAINING DATE HELD OPEN. BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR OFFICERS TO BEGIN ELT, THEREFORE, WE WOULD NEED CONTINGENCY ASSURANCE THAT RANGER TRAINING POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT LATER DATE. PLS ADVISE.

5. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING ESTIMATE EXPENSES FOR FOOD, LODGING, ETC., WHILE AT DLI LACKLAND.
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